"TEMPLARY IS THE NEW TESTAMENT OF MASONRY"

THE TEMPLAR

A FRIENDLY VOICE OF TEMPLAR INTEREST TO KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Official publication of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

GEORGE A. WEEKS, *Grand Recorder* HARRIE M. TAFT, *Grand Commander*

VOLUME 7 April 1954 No. 6

EMINENT SIRS AND SIR KNIGHTS:

It's Eastertime! EASTER - what a glorious climax to the most drama-filled week in all history, - a week filled with the same symptoms and motives that plague us and drive us and move us today.

Consider Palm Sunday with the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the plaudits of the crowd, turned to the cries of "Crucify Him" before the week is ended. Picture the anguished prayers and supplications of our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane while his disciples sleep nearby. Think of that Last Supper in the upper room with a dozen or so disciples, the basis of a rite now observed by countless millions around the world in remembrance of Him. Learn from the lesson taught by the Master when he washed the feet of his disciples to demonstrate his humility. Compare Judas' betrayal of his Lord for the love of thirty pieces of silver, with today's betrayal of the best for the gain of material things. Ponder on the thought of the futility of resorting to the sword to resist wrong. Observe Pilate sacrificing principle for political profit; Simon, the unknown passerby, since immortalized because he carried our Saviour's cross; Peter's denial that he ever knew his Master;and Calvary with its redemption for a repentant thief, and Jesus making the supreme sacrifice and saying: "Forgive them for they know not what they do." Glory in the implications of that early morning of the first day of the week when the women devotedly approached the sepulchre, found the stone rolled back and the tomb empty, and Jesus meeting them and saying: "Be not afraid."

Each of these thoughts could command sermons. Space does not permit. Christ's whole life gave us an example for living - His death gave us HOPE and without Him there would be no path for our footsteps. Calvary is not the end.

While we, as Templars, then, observe Easter in our several houses of worship, let us be mindful that Easter is not alone an event of nineteen hundred years ago; it is not even something we anticipate in some dim distant future. Easter is here and now. It's present tense "He is risen." "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and because He lives, I too shall live."

Courteously,

HARRIE M. TAFT
Grand Commander

The City of Northampton, Massachusetts is having a parade in celebration of its 300th anniversary. Northampton Commandery #30 is pleased to extend to you and all the Grand Officers an invitation to participate in this event.

We feel that this is an excellent opportunity for all Masonic bodies to let the general public know that we are an active organization. We have the promise of the Shrine Band and Patrol to participate in this parade. My committee has extended invitations to all the Commanderies in Western Massachusetts to join us in this event. We have extended invitations to Washington Commandery #1 of Hartford Conn., Keene, N.H. and Windsor, Vt. to join us. I have been assured by the parade committee of an excellent position in the parade. I am hoping we will have a good turnout for this affair. I understand that the President of the United States has been invited to attend.

The date is Sunday-June 20th. The parade starts at 1:00 P.M. As soon as we hear from the commanderies as to the number who will attend, I will inform you. We have tentative plans to have a church service before the parade and to serve a lunch to all visiting Sir Knights.

William L. Osterhout, Commander
Northampton Commandery #30

*****

The following is an example of the letters we receive from grateful students helped by our Educational Foundation. This one came from Eugene M. D'Andrea of Greenwood:

"I am writing this letter to express my gratitude for the recent loan that the Foundation granted me to aid me in my graduate work at M.I.T.

Oftentimes in an educational process students, who may not have as much financial backing as the present educational trends demand run into difficulties. It is pleasing to know, however, and in my own case to have found through personal experience, that there are organizations that counteract these difficulties. I feel that by expressing my appreciation in writing, the directors of the Foundation will obtain one more impression of the favorable comment concerning the loan fund program.

It is my hope that I shall be able to repay my loan in less time than my schedule calls for, and to some day be able to help some other needy students. Again thanking you, I remain....."

THE GRAND LODGE of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Rhode Island cordially invites the Officers, Guard and Sir Knights of Rhode Island Commanderies to participate in a parade on Friday, May 7th (in case of rain, May 14th), commemorating a Public Outdoor Installation of the newly elected officers of Doric Chapter, Order of DeMolay, in the Cranston Stadium.

Formation will be in the rear of the City Hall, Cranston at no later than 7:00 P.M. parade beginning at 7:15 P.M.

Once again let us turn out and give the youngsters the support they deserve. Let's go. Let the cry be: "ON TO CRANSTON."

*****

The following Commanderies have not ordered Due Cards: Washington #4, DeMolay #7, Old Colony #15, Athol #37, Bethlehem #43 and Temple #48.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Annual Easter Sunrise Service, Arlington Virginia National Cemetery - April 18th, 1954, at 7:00 A.M.

Annual Templar Night at Pops - Tuesday, June 8th, 1954. Tickets are going very fast. Contact Harold Burr or William Mann for ticket and table reservations.

46th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America will be held in New York City - August 20th to 26th, 1955, inclusive.

HISTORIC GRAVESTONE

In the famous burial grounds at Plymouth, Mass. is what is claimed to be the oldest Masonic tombstone in America. It is the monument marking the grave of Nath Jackson who died July 14, 1743. On the stone are carved a skeleton, an hourglass, a rose tree, a tomb and a skull leaning against a sprig of acacia.

PAUL REVERE JEWELS

The jewels of King Solomon's Lodge of Somerville, Massachusetts, worn by its present officers, are over 150 years old; they were made by Lieutenant Colonel Paul Revere, the "Messenger of the Revolution," in his own goldsmith shop.

****

EARLY HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT ORDER OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

(Continued from the March issue)

Early in the spring of 1096, it was becoming quite impossible to restrain the impatience of the people. All eyes turned toward Jerusalem. From the Tiber to the Northern Ocean, from the Danube to Portugal, all were hurrying to the Crusade. "The Welshman left his hunting; the Scotch abandoned his field sports; the Dane his drinking party; the Norwegian his raw fish." To every class of the community the Crusade became the great business of life.

Once the Holy City had been returned to Christian domination, pilgrims from all parts of Europe and Great Britain began to flock in increasing numbers to the scenes and shrines made sacred by the founder of their religion. In their journey to and fro, they encountered oppression, insult and abuse at the hands of the Saracens. It was to protect them from their enemies that a coterie of matchless knights, headed by Hugh de Payens and Godfrey de St. Aldemar, formed a military organization that was to endure through the centuries. This was in 1118.

Hugh de Payens and his associates bound themselves to the Patriarch of Jerusalem, vowing "to guard the approaches to the Holy City, so that pilgrims to the sacred places might have easy access; to live as regular canons of the Church, under the Benedictine rule, and to fight for the King of Heaven and the Bride of Christ in chastity, obedience and self-denial ..."

In return for their invaluable service, Baldwin II, King of Jerusalem, gave them for their quarters a structure on Mount Moriah known as "Solomon's Temple," a Byzantine church which had been transformed into the Mosque of Omar. It was from this building that the Knights took the name of Templars, or Knights of the Temple. Hugh de Payens, of immortal renown, became the first of an illustrious line of grand masters.

Soon foreseeing that great advantages would accrue to the Latin Kingdom by the increase of the power and numbers of these holy warriors, King Baldwin dispatched two Knights Templar to Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, with a letter. Baldwin told the Abbot that the Templars, whom the Lord had deigned to raise up, and whom he had preserved in a wonderful manner for the defense of Palestine, desired to obtain from the Holy See the confirmation of their institution, and a rule for their particular guidance. Baldwin beseeched him to "Procure from the Pope the approbation of their Order, and to induce his Holiness to send succor and subsidies against the enemies of the faith." Hugh de Payens himself proceeded to Rome, accompanied by de St. Aldemar and four other fraters of the Order. The petitioners were received with great honor and distinction by Pope Honorius.

An ecclesiastical council assembled in Troyes, France, with Hugh de Payens and his brethren invited to attend. The rules to which the Knights Templar had subjected themselves were then read out, Bernard undertaking the task of revising and correcting them, and of forming a Code of Statutes deemed proper for the governance of the great religious and military fraternity of the Temple.

After the confirmation by a Papal bull of the Rules and Statutes of the Order, Hugh de Payens toured France and crossed the Channel into England where he was warmly welcomed. Before quitting England, he placed a Knight Templar at the head of the Order in that country, who was called the Prior of the Temple. He was the procurator and vice-regent of the Master, whose duty it was to manage the estates granted to the fraternity, and to transmit the revenues to Jerusalem. He was also given the power of admitting new members into the Order, subject to the control and direction of the Master, and to provide means of transport for such newly-elected brethren to the Far East. As the houses of the Temple increased in number in England, sub-priors came to be appointed, and the superior of the Order was then called Grand Prior, and afterwards Master of the Temple.

Great enthusiasm now was being manifested throughout Christendom in the works and intentions of the Knights Templar. It was a situation unique in world history. Princes and nobles, sovereigns and their subjects, vied with each other in heaping gifts and benefits upon them. Persons on their deathbeds took the vows, that they might be buried in the habit of the Order. Surrendering the government of their kingdoms, sovereign princes enrolled themselves amongst the Holy Fraternity, bequeathing even their dominions to the Master and the brethren of the Temple.

(This history will be continued in the May issue of THE TEMPLAR.)

COMMANDERIES	NET GAIN QUOTA	Pct. QUOTA	6 MOS. TOTAL	MAR.	TOT.
St. Johns	14	57	4	10	14
Boston	26	104	30	8	38
Newburyport	4	16	7		7
Washington	2	7	5		5
Worcester County	9	35	11	5	16
Springfield	7	28	12	1	13
De Molay	14	57	46	4	50
Holy Sepulchre	6	23	7		7
Pilgrim	5	22	4		4
Palestine	2	9	12	3	15
Milford	2	7	11		11
St. Bernard	2	7	6	1	7
Calvary	8	31	13	3	16
Haverhill	7	28	23	2	25
Old Colony	3	13	10		10
Sutton	10	40	13	3	16
Bethany	2	7	8		8
Winslow Lewis	3	10	3	4	7
Jerusalem	5	18	9	3	12
Hugh de Payens	12	47	20	3	23
St. Omer	5	19	1		1
Berkshire	3	13	5	1	6
Conn. Valley	2	9	10		10
Woonsocket	6	22	11		11
God. de Bouillon	3	12	4		4
Joseph Warren	2	8	5		5
Narragansett	5	14	7	1	8
Bristol	3	12	5	1	6
Northampton	2	8	4	1	5
South Shore	3	10	4		4
Trinity	5	18	2	2	4
Natick	2	9	16	2	18
Coeur de Lion	7	28	4	1	5
Gethsemane	12	47	12	7	19
Olivet	6	25	11	11	22
Athol	2	7	1		1
Bay State	4	17	6	1	7
Cyprus	2	8	4	3	7
St. Paul	3	12	1		1
Beauseant	4	17	9	3	12
Cambridge	2	5	8		8
Bethlehem	2	9	6		6
Orange	2	5	-	-	-
Ivanhoe	6	25	3	4	7
Quincy	4	14	5		5
Temple	5	17	11	3	14
St. Andrew	3	10	4	2	6
Reading	5	19	9	2	11
T. Smith Webb	2	8	7	2	9
Sir Galahad	2	7		8	8
Total	257	1000	429	105	534

MONTHLY OBJECTIVES
NECESSARY TO OBTAIN QUOTA

	OBJ.	ACT.
Sept.	70	21
Oct.	100	118
Nov.	70	53
Dec.	80	70
Jan.	130	93
Feb.	110	74
Mar.	130	105
Apr.	100	
May	130	
June	80	
	1000	

ACCUMULATIVE

	OBJ.	ACT.
Sept.	70	21
Oct.	170	139
Nov.	240	192
Dec.	320	262
Jan.	450	355
Feb.	560	429
Mar.	690	534
Apr.	790	
May	920	
June	1000	

COMPARISONS

	1954	1953	1952
Sept.	21	52	97
Oct.	139	129	215
Nov.	192	186	277
Dec.	262	247	352
Jan.	355	345	484
Feb.	429	433	583
Mar.	534	534	730
Apr.		611	852
May		712	952
June		777	1003

EMINENT COMMANDERS:
Let us adopt the slogan:
"KNIGHT EVERY PETITIONER"

As a popular beverage is advertised on the radio:
"GOOD TO THE LAST DROP" -
Let us make the NET GAIN -
"GOOD TO THE LAST PETITION"

Frank H. Wilson, Chai
New Membership and
Publicity